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Appl'n No: 10/534,320

Ammdt dated April 18, 2008

Reply to Office action of December 18, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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Please replace paragraph [0008] in the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- [0008] ³ Hydroforming is a forming process in which one or more hydroforming presses are used to shape a blank disposed within a hydroforming die assembly. Hydroforming presses are coupled to hydroforming die assemblies to provide a force exertion. In the prior art, connecting rods are threaded directly into a hole in the die assemblies ~~making~~ making connection between die halves and hydroforming presses difficult and time consuming, and requiring excessive manpower. --

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Please replace paragraph [0019] in the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- [0019] ¹⁵ Another illustrative embodiment of a slot 68 is shown in FIG. 6. Slot 68 is provided by a pair of upwardly projecting integral wall structures 70, 72 integrally formed on a lower die member 67. The shoulder portion 32 of the head 33 abuttingly engages surfaces 74, 76 on the wall structures 70, 72, respectively, when a fastener 24 is disposed in the slot 68. A transversely extending groove 78 is formed adjacent the wall structures 70, 72 and receives a portion of the head 33 of the fastener 24. The embodiment of FIG. 6 permits greater leeway in the initial positioning of the head 33 when positioning the fastener 24 in slot 68. When an upper die member is placed on the lower die member 67, the upper die member [[67]] covers the top opening of the slot 68. Also, separate covers can be used to cover the connection between the fasteners 24 and the slots 68, such as metal plates that attach directly to the lower die member 67. Except for the configuration of slot 68, the die assembly of lower die 67 and its corresponding hydroforming press function in a manner substantially identical to that described above with respect to the embodiment of FIG. 5. --

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Please replace paragraph [0029] in the above-captioned application with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- [0029] The press housing 22, the fastener 24, the spacer 29, and the nut 36 can be heavy and cumbersome depending on the size of the die assembly [[and]] 14 and the blank 12 to be hydroformed. For example, the shaft 30 portion of each fastener 24 may weight 50-75 pounds and each locking crown nut 36 may weight 50-75 pounds. The present invention simplifies handling of these and other components because the fastener assemblies 37 [[does]] do not have be removed from a press housing 22 once installed therein. More specifically, prior to installation of a press housing 22 on a side of the die assembly 14, each fastener 24 is loosely held on the press housing 22 by a nut 36. The spacers 29 are loosely disposed on the shafts 30. A press housing 22 is lifted above the lower die member 21 and then lowered such that the pair of fasteners 24 on the press housing 22 move into a pair of slots 28 on a side of the lower die member 21 as seen in FIGS. 1-3 and 5 as the spacers 29 are provided with sufficient room to move along the shaft 30 of the fastener 24 to provide enough clearance between the head 32 and the spacer 29 to permit the wall of the slot 28 to pass therebetween. When the press housing 22 is mounted on the die assembly 14, the pair of spacers 29 are positioned between a side 38 of the die assembly 14 and a side 40 of the press housing 22. Each nut 36 is tightened to a specified tightness to secure the press housing 22 to the die assembly 14. The press housing 22 can be removed by loosening each nut 36 and lifting the fasteners 24 out of the slots 28. --